

Traffic Advisory Committee Public Hearing--Minutes for Thursday, September 15, 2005.

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, L. Nickens, T. Turner, T. Olson, T. Riley.

Absent: A. Masciari, P. Curro.

Also attending: G. Clancy, BSC Group representatives C Kalauskas, Susan Marsh, several other residents.

7:08 p.m. Meeting called to order.

(7:08 p.m.) Administrative matters. A tri-community board will be appointed to deal with regional traffic. TR asked for a progress report on the Bright/Blanchard/Grove roundabout. Due to the approach of the winter months, the OCD has decided to hold off on construction until Spring 2006.

Minutes from July 19, August 2, and September 8, 2005 were approved by unanimous votes.

(7:17 p.m.) MF introduced Susan Marsh, a resident of Belmont who presented a plan for the Pequotsette Park area in South Belmont. Ms. Marsh gave a brief history of the neighborhood. On the basis of an informal survey of the neighborhood, Ms. Marsh developed a plan to enhance the use of the park and of the neighborhood. Her plan has two parts, first to create a Pequotsette Park district, then to build five separate "amenities" to enhance the park. The first "The Outdoor Room" Would be a small public park to be constructed at the corner of Flett and Trapelo Rds. The second, "Bus Stops" amounts to relocating the Bus Stops to make them more hospitable. This would be placed in conjunction with a signal for the new Fire Headquarters that could be pedestrian activated. The third space, "The Greenhouse Walk" will have a trellised walk that would serve as a gateway to the park. The fourth, "The Lettuce Dance Lot", is a small public park near the existing tennis courts that would be dedicated to Belmont's founding farm community. The fifth, "Orchard Stroll", would be a grove of trees to create a barrier between the playstructures and the baseball field.

Many of the ideas Ms. Marsh presented have already been included in the preliminary design developed by the BSC Group. CK gave an overview of their current design features in the Central/Palfrey Sq. region.

(8:00 p.m.) CK gave an overview of the Project Development Schedule. We are on schedule for an October 2005 appearance before the MassHighway. Several design changes since the TAC meeting of September 8 were featured. First, attention has been called to the culvert carrying Beaver Brook under Trapelo to alert MassHighway that it may need to be rebuilt. The light cycles at Mill/Trapelo to accommodate a westbound right turn onto Mill were studied to ensure a dedicated pedestrian cycle. Near Lexington/Trapelo, there was concern that the eastbound traffic on Trapelo turning into Belmont Car Was would cause traffic to back up on Trapelo. Various strategies to diminish that possibility were discussed. GC suggested that the preliminary design be advanced without modification in order to avoid any unforeseen objections from MassHighway. CK agreed to revisit this area once accurate survey data are available. In Central Sq., one of the center islands was removed in response to business owner feedback. In Cushing Sq., Common St. will be put into the project for purposes of resurfacing. The intersection at School St. was re-examined and slightly altered from its current configuration by adding a left turn lane on the northbound side of School onto Trapelo. This will be accomplished by narrowing the island in Watertown. The Grove/Arlington/Templeton intersection was examined to look whether making

Templeton one-way travel in the southbound direction would improve the level of service at that intersection, which it appears to do. No further changes were noted.

Meeting Adjourned 9:21 p.m.